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REPORT

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INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

COUNTRY USSR DATE OF

CD NO.

SUBJECT

Economic - Peat industry

INFORMATION

1950

DATE DIST. 25 Sep 1950

PUBLISHED Monthly periodical

WHERE

PUBLISHED Moscow

NO. OF PAGES

PUBLISHED Apr 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO

LANGUAGE Russian

REPORT NO.

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Torfyanaya Promyshlennost', No 4, 1950.

## SOVIET PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1950 PEAT SEASON

On 28 February, a Collegium of the Ministry of Electric Power Plants discussed the extent of the peat trusts' preparation for the 1950 peat season and criticized the fact that much preparatory work was lagging behind schedule, with the opening of the peat season not far off.

In the Leningrad Trust, the repair of molding machines, TUM conveyors, auger-type drain-digging machines, piling machines, and flexible cable is behind schedule. In the Kalinin Trust, the plan for reconditioning molding machines is only 50 percent completed and for secondary electric motors for peat extraction machines, only 83 percent The Chernoramenskiy Trust has overhauled only 13 molding machines instead of the 16 planned (81.3 percent completed) and three drain-digging machines instead of the four planned. The Kirov Trust completed its plan for overhauling molding machines  $\hat{8}0$  percent, drainage machines 75 percent, and drum milling machines 87.5 percent. In the Sverdlovsk Trust, repair of dredging machines, spreading machines, and primary motors for spreader machines is behind schedule, and the Lithuanian Trust and the Ellamaa and Ulila peat enterprises are slow in reconditioning their electrical equipment.

On 1 March, only 72 percent of the plan for reconditioning caterpillar tractors was completed; not one trust has yet finished overhauling its caterpillar tractors.

The quality of the repair work is also unsatisfactory, e.g., in the Leningrad Trust, particularly in the Nasiya, Tesovo 1, and Lar'yanovskiy enterprises, tractors and molding and drain-digging machines are poorly prepared. When this work was inspected in the Leningrad Trust, 16 tractors were rejected and serious defects were found in reconditioned disk-digging machines, molding machines, and leveling drums.

The assembly of equipment is also lagging. On 1 March, the Litovskiy Trust had completed only 66.7 percent of its plan for assembling elevators, and the Orekhovskiy Trust, 87.5 percent of its plan for hydropeat cranes. In the Glavtorf, only 47 percent of all peat pumps, 40 percent of the high-pressure pumps, 50 percent of the accumulators, and 20.6 percent of the dredging machines have been assembled.

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Most trusts have not yet completed assembly of pulp pipes, and the Ivanovo, Gorkiy, and Sverdlovsk peat trusts have not yet assembled their transit and main pulp pipes. The Tesovo 1 and Irinovskiy peat enterprises lag behind plan in pile driving, and all trusts are slow in installing electric power (2-6 kilowatt) and communication lines. Only 90.8 percent of the electric power lines and 90.5 percent of communication lines had been installed by 1 March.

Labor force procurement for peat enterprises and peat construction enterprises is not going as well as last year. The Glavtorf had concluded only 86.1 percent of the workers' contracts by 1 March, and only 71.6 percent of the interoblast contracts were drawn up. The Glavtorfostroy (Main Administration for Construction of Peat Enterprises) had drawn up only 58.9 percent of its contracts. Only 10,000 of a required 14,500 skilled workers were trained by 20 February.

The poor construction work of the Glavtorfostroy and Gortorfostroy (Gor'kiy Construction of Peat Enterprises) and operations of the Glavelektroset'stroy (Main Administration for the Construction of Electric Power Systems), Mosenergo, and Sverdlovenergo were sharply criticized in the Collegium of the Ministry. Construction and assembly of the Aleksandrov Collegium of the Ministry. Construction and assembly that it threatand Berendeyevo substations of Mosenergo is going so slowly that it threatens to disrupt the supply of electric power to the Berendeyevo Peat Enterprise.

Glavtorf was criticized for lack of progress in mechanizing the peat industry. The outlook for operations in the peat industry in the next 5 to 10 years depends on mechanization because the system of using 120,000-150,000 seasonal workers each year cannot be maintained.

To insure uninterrupted operation of equipment during the peat season, the enterprises must finish reconditioning, assembly, and testing of all hydropeat-extracting equipment between 1 and 10 April, all lump-extracting equipment (dredges, elevators) between 10 and 20 April, and all milled-peat-extracting equipment before 5 May. All blasting and other methods of frozen extracting equipment before 5 May. All blasting and other methods of frozen extracting equipment before 20 April 1950. The plan for skilled ground removal should be done before 20 April 1950. The plan for skilled workers must be completed. By 1 May 4,310 workers must be trained, including 1,442 tractor operators, 779 mechanics, 732 milled-peat-gathering-machine operators, 437 machinists, 258 electriciens, 199 spreader and dredging machine operators, and 463 OF and TUM operators.

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